AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 18, replace the paragraph with the following:

FIG. 1 is an energy level diagram of a thulium ion (see, non-patent document 1). In FIG. 1, energy values are shown on the right side of individual energy levels, and names of the individual levels are shown on the left side of the individual energy levels. Numerals added to arrows indicate wavelengths of light absorbed (corresponding to upward arrows (not shown in FIG. 1)) or emitted (corresponding to downward arrows in FIG. 1) when transitions of the individual arrows occur. Here, the unit of the energy is represented by 1/cm (corresponding to Kayser in terms of spectroscopy) based on the unit of the wave number, and the name of the energy levels are based on the Russell-Saunders notational system. In addition, alphabetical capitals represent a compound orbit angular momentum, superscript index digits added to them represent the multiplicity of the spectral term based on electronic total spin angular momentum, and subscript index digits added to them represent the total angular momentum. Here, each $[[^3H_6]]$ level is the level having an expanded width because of the segmentation of degeneration levels by the Starke effect caused by crystal electric field.

Page 6, line 2, replace the paragraph with the following:

Incidentally, 1.9 μm band laser oscillation by a Tm^{3+}-Ho^{3+}-codoped fluoride fiber using the 1.2 μm band excitation has been reported (see, non-patent document 3). However, it does not utilize the laser transition of Tm^{3+} from the $^3H_4$ to $^3H_6$ $[[^3H_5]]$ level, and hence has nothing to do with the light emission at the 2.3 μm band.